AN EXAMINATION OF AMOTEKUN AS PANACEA TO THE PROBLEM OF INSECURITY IN YORUBA LAND

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Abstracts
One of the major challenges facing the nations of the world is the problem of insecurity. This has become a global phenomenon posing serious threat to the wellbeing and the development of the nations of the world. Our times are characterized by living daily with the combined forces of destructiveness, untold number of wars, persecutions, violent intolerances, social bigotries and burgeoning restlessness. The 20th century was dominated by the legacy of devastatingly global wars, colonial struggles, and ideology conflicts. Insecurity and corruption not only remain, they have become the primary development challenges of the 21st century. Nigeria has its own share of this challenge. Over the years, insecurity and terrorism has been a major challenge to the Nigerian government. The activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) had led to loss of lives and properties in the country especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. Their activities include: bombing /suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, kidnapping and rape. This is in addition to the activities of the Niger Delta militants, which include: oil pipe line vandalization, murder and political upheavals. Presently, the notorious Fulani Herdsmen and cattle rustlers have become a great threat to the security of the country. Untold catastrophes, destructions of lives and properties have become the order of the day in the country. Although, there is no accurate statistical data on number of death recorded and those that have been displaced as a result of these terrible activities, several thousands of people have been killed while greater numbers have been rendered homeless. Several people's economy had been crippled. No wonder, Nigeria has been listed as one of the terrorist countries of the world. Many foreigners have moved out of the country with their investment. It is pertinent to note that the government at all levels has made frantic efforts to ameliorate this ignoble situation. Many security apparatus have been introduced with diverse strategies. In fact, assistance of the international world had been sought on many occasions. Greater percentage of the country budget in recent times has been channeled to this task with little or no result. It is disheartening to note that the level of insecurity in the country is still very much devastating and alarming. Premium Times reported that Nigeria spends #4.62 trillion on National security in 5 years; yet, widespread insecurity remains. From Boko Haram to farmer-herder conflicts, ethnic- religious tensions, urban crime, Fulani kidnappers to Niger-Delta militant groups; Nigeria is overwhelmingly crushed under the burden of insecurity. This study therefore sets to underscore security network using Amotekun as the springboards to provide lasting solution or curtail the trending problem of insecurity in Yorubaland of Nigeria. In recent times, the South-West Governors comprised of Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti and Lagos States formed an alliance to set up a formidable traditional security network. The idea emanated to combat the insecurity situation in the South Western part of Nigeria. The name given to this security outfit is AMOTEKUN; which forms the focus of this study.

Keywords: Amotekun, Security, Insecurity, Boko-Haram and Fulani Herdsmen
Introduction:
The abysmal absence of security in Nigeria has been perturbing and enormous. The level of insecurity in the country has become a matter of concern to all and sundry. This is because nowhere is safe and it seems that the hope of restoration of sanity and tranquility has turned to the limbo of dead memory. So many instances ranging from the killings that took place on the 10th of July, 2020 in Benue state’s area, where unidentified assailants killed seven in Chembe village certify this statement. Not long after this incident, on the 29th of July, 2020, unidentified gunmen killed fourteen at Agbudu village, Kogi state. In Taraba state, representatives of Tiv and Jukun ethnic groups agreed on a ceasefire in a peace meeting held in Jalingo by September 26. Appallingly, two days after the said peace meeting, suspected Jukun militants attacked the Tiv community in Akume village of Taraba, continuing this inter-communal violence that has reared its head once again since April, 2019. All of these incidents are to mention but a few of the current security casualties that Nigeria has suffered in the year 2020 alone. Hence, questions run through and agitating the minds of all the citizens, home and in diaspora on the present and future of Nigeria. It is in the reality of this that the study will look into the issue of national security, especially in the Yorubaland with the periscope of African Traditional Religious Security Network. It will consider how African Traditional Religious Security Operation can engender peace and security within the scope of the study.

Problems of Insecurity in Nigeria
Several illegal armed groups, ethnic militia groups, religious fundamentalist and fanatics, are evidence of the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. These have given birth to series of bombings, murder, arson, armed robbery, corruption, injustices that we hear of every day. It is clear that these happenings are negatively affecting Nigeria politically, religiously and culturally. Religious organizations and other humanitarian agencies are rapidly losing confidence in the stipulated law enforcement agencies.

Udoh (2015) points out that “in modern history, internal strife has burdened Africa’s most populous nation, Nigeria. After independence, Nigeria experienced frequent coups and long periods of autocratic military rule from 1966 until 1999 when a democratic civilian government was established. The past fifty years, in particular, have witnessed numerous coups as well as regional, religious, ethnic and secessionist violence. Another reason for insecurity is the act of piracy in the Niger Delta which seems to have characterized much of the current period of democracy. In the past two years, however, new forms of discord, distrust, have emerged in which religious extremists, armed militant, and ethnic militia groups threaten to bring about greater insecurity than those that preceded them. The older forms of militia groups have metamorphosed into armed groups and have intensified their activities.”

‘Recently, there have been high incidences of insecurity that have resulted in deaths and psychological trauma for individuals and families in the country. This requires the citizens to be much more security conscious considering the threat by religious extremists to bring about greater insecurity than those that preceded them. Other security indices also include the persistent tension between the north and the south of Nigeria, growing unrest in the Niger Delta area and other parts of the country resulting in rise in violent incidents and kidnappings. Ethnic tensions, religious differences, unemployment and numerous social and political grievances are all fuelling the unrests in Nigeria and contributing to flashpoints for violence and creating insecurity in the country; all of these taking place from north to south, east to west and almost on daily basis’ (Udoh, 2015).

Terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria are retarding the economic and technological advancement of the nation. Many Nigerians live every day in tension and suspicion. Many productive lives have been lost, available ones are displaced and live in constant fear and pain of the loss of loved ones. Foreign investors are scared away from Nigeria. The nation’s educational institutions are not spared either as institutions of learning are equally points of targets for attacks from terrorists and other hoodlums.

Omede and Omede (2015), explain that “the act of terrorism and general insecurity situation in Nigeria requires that solution be sought to safe-guard the nation against balkanization and to save the educational system from collapse. Every nation’s educational system is to help it overcome her peculiar problems. If
this is a truism, then Nigeria’s educational system is supposed to help her overcome the problem of terrorism that is shaking it to its foundation. Security plays a central in the development of nations for which Nigeria cannot be an exception.”

‘Insecurity in Nigeria is heightened by the activities of other ethnic militias such as the Niger Delta militants, whose activities manifest in kidnapping, abduction, pipeline vandalism, armed robberies, and hostage taking. Other activities that have heightened insecurity in Nigeria also include human and drug trafficking, porous borders that allow infiltration of illegal aliens, arms and ammunition, ethno-religious conflicts, political based violence, even economic based violence. All of these life threatening activities frustrate economic and technological advancements, keeping Nigeria in a perpetual state of economic dependence, loss of productive human resources and general apathy and discontentment; and unless this situation is checked and reversed, Nigeria will constantly remain dependent and underdeveloped perpetually’ (Omede et al, 2015).

Many factors have been postulated as causing unrest in Nigeria. Some writers put their blames on the government while some others pass the bulk on parents. Other writers hold the youths as being responsible while others settle on the combination of these factors. Putting all these factors together will provide some of the following as responsible factors for the general state of insecurity in Nigeria. ‘All of which range from unemployment, bad governance, lack of quality education or training, lack or inadequate basic infrastructures, corruption and corrupt practices of government officials, perceived victimization, arrant poverty in the midst of affluence, ethnic superiority, religious superiority, domination and exploitation, materialism and the display of it with impunity, etc’ (Omede et al, 2015).

“Efforts to project an image of Nigeria as the leading heavyweight on the continent, despite its huge and seemingly growing insecurity problems is not curbing any negative statements about its economic growth. Images like those of the latest killings in Borno state, where 35 people were killed, are sent into the world on a regular basis, with very little mitigation by the government propagandists. Over 2 000 people are said to have died at the hands of Boko Haram in the past four years” (Louw-Vaudran, 2013). ‘Dr Samuel Obadiah, of the Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies at the University of Jos, said there was still a lack of political will on the part of the Nigerian government to tackle the issue of Boko Haram head-on. Obadiah said the actions of the security forces, persistent corruption and ‘the alleged complicity of highly placed individuals’ hamper the fight against insecurity in the country. Increasingly, local vigilante groups are also taking the law into their own hands in the fight against Boko Haram and every form of insecurity’ (ISS, 2013). Fact is so many security challenges plague the nation including the Boko-Haram insurgency, Fulani herdsmen attacks, the Niger-Delta militancy, kidnapping for ransom to mention but a few.

**Boko Haram Insurgency**

According to Obasi (2017), the violent rise and resilience of the Jihadist group Boko Haram, in the Lake Chad basin since 2009, poses enormous security, humanitarian and governance challenges. Four countries are generally known to have been caught up in the web of the insurgency, namely: Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The Jihadist group Boko Haram started an armed rebellion against the government of Nigeria. The conflict takes place within the context of long-standing issues of religious violence between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities, and the insurgents' ultimate aim is to establish an Islamic state in the region.

Since 2011, Boko Haram—one of the largest Islamist militant groups in Africa - has conducted terrorist attacks on religious and political groups, local police, and the military, as well as indiscriminately attacking civilians in busy markets and villages. Links between Boko Haram and other Islamist groups could further intensify regional security concerns.

“After a peak in Boko Haram - related violence in 2014 and 2015, the number of casualties attributed to the group fell dramatically. The Nigerian military - with assistance from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger - has pushed Boko Haram out of several provinces in northeastern Nigeria, but the group retains
control over some villages and pockets of territory and continues to launch deadly suicide attacks and abduct civilians, mostly women and children. In February 2018, more than one hundred students were kidnapped by a faction of Boko Haram known as Islamic State West Africa. They were released a little more than a month later.
The conflict has been primarily contained in the Muslim north, particularly in Borno state, but has displaced millions of people in the region. In June 2018, the Nigerian Army announced that two thousand internally displaced people were to return home. Security forces combating the militants have also been accused of severe human rights abuses” (Brigety, 2018).
Brechenmacher (2019) opines that in the early years of the conflict, most Western governments saw Boko Haram primarily as a problem specific to Nigeria. The group first emerged as an Islamic reform movement in the northeastern town of Maiduguri in the early 2000s. Its members followed the charismatic Salafi preacher Muhammad Yusuf, who condemned Western-style education and corrupt, secular governance while also cultivating strategic ties to the city’s elites. In 2009, clashes between Boko Haram members and police forces escalated into several days of armed uprising in Maiduguri. The Nigerian government brutally crushed the insurrection, leaving several hundreds dead - including Yusuf himself, who was executed in police custody.

Following the government’s crackdown, Nigerian authorities believed they had successfully quashed the movement. Yet Boko Haram re-emerged in 2010 under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau, carrying out sporadic attacks across the northeast. It’s clandestine tactics gradually grew more sophisticated, but the Nigerian government was slow to recognize the extent of the crisis. Then President Goodluck Jonathan instead framed Boko Haram as a terrorist organization with ties to international jihadist networks, thereby laying the ground for a narrow counterterrorism response.”
Brechenmacher (2019) enlightened that ‘in 2013, the Nigerian military intensified its campaign against Boko Haram. Yet its indiscriminate tactics failed to degrade the group’s capacity and deeply alienated the region’s civilian population. A state of emergency imposed on Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States only deepened the cycle of violence. Over the past three years, Boko Haram’s decline has been uneven. As the insurgents were pushed back into more remote rural areas, they reverted to earlier tactics, relying on guerilla-style attacks and suicide bombings.16 Nigerian security forces have struggled to consolidate control over rural areas and protect urban centers from sporadic attacks. While the number of fatalities associated with the group has declined, the number of attacks has fluctuated, and patterns of violence have remained largely consistent since 2014.’

“In 2019, the conflict in northeastern Nigeria entered its eleventh year. Since 2009, the Boko Haram insurgency and the government’s military response have killed tens of thousands of civilians and displaced millions across the Lake Chad region, which straddles Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. Although major military campaigns in 2015–2016 succeeded in degrading the group’s territorial control, Boko Haram has proven remarkably adaptable in its tactics: the end of 2018 once again saw an uptick in attacks in Nigeria’s Borno State. As Muhammadu Buhari assumes his second term as president, the conflict in the northeast appears far from resolved. Civilians in many parts of the northeast face ongoing threats from both insurgent attacks as well as counterterrorism operations. While some areas - particularly in Adamawa State, Yobe State, and southern Borno - have thus seen greater security and the return of displaced populations, other parts of Borno State still struggle with ongoing military operations and humanitarian crisis conditions” (Brechenmacher, 2019)

**Fulani Herdsmen Attacks**
A detailed article on WikiHow shows “that herder-famer conflicts' in Nigeria have mainly involved disputes over land resources between mostly Muslim Fulani herders and mostly Christian farmers across Nigeria but more devastating in the Middle Belt (North Central) since the return of democracy in 1999. Attacks have also taken place in the northwest Nigeria against farmers who are mainly Hausa people. While the conflict has underlying economic and environmental reasons, it has also acquired religious and
Amnesty International (2018) reveals that “farmer-herder violence has reportedly killed more than 19,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. It followed a trend in the increase of farmer-herder conflicts throughout much of the western Sahel, due to an expansion of agriculturist population and cultivated land at the expense of pasturelands; deteriorating environmental conditions, desertification and soil degradation, breakdown in traditional conflict resolution mechanisms of land and water disputes, proliferation of small arms and crime in rural areas. Insecurity and violence have led many populations to create self-defense forces and ethnic and tribal militias, which have engaged in further violence. The majority of farmer-herder clashes have occurred between Muslim Fulani herdsmen and Christian farmers, exacerbating ethno religious hostilities.

The Nigerian government has been unwilling to address the causes of the crisis. Fighting Boko Haram in the North-East and facing rising levels of violence in different regions of the country, the government has nonetheless tried to implement a few measures. Since 2012, there have been projects to create transhumance corridors through the Middle Belt. Mostly supported by Northern lawmakers and opposed by their Southern counterparts, these endeavours have been rarely successful. In 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari tried to create Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) settlements. However, his proposal was met with fierce criticism.”

According to the Global Terrorism Index, casualties incurred over the years from these conflicts include over 800 deaths by 2015. The year 2016 saw further incidents in Agatu, Benue and Nimbo, Enugu State. In April 2018 Fulani gunmen allegedly killed 19 people during an attack on the church; afterwards they burnt dozens of nearby homes. In June 2018, over 200 people were killed and 50 houses were burnt in clashes between farmers and Fulani cattle herders in Plateau State. In October 2018, Fulani herdsmen killed at least 19 people in Bassa. On 16 December 2018, militants believed to be Fulani herdsmen attacked a village in Jena’a, killing 15 people and injuring at least 24 others, the attack occurred at a wedding ceremony. On 11 February 2019, an attack on an Adara settlement named Ungwar Bardi by suspected Fulani gunmen killed 11. Reprisal attack by Adara targeted settlements of the Fulani killing at least 141 people with 65 missing. The ‘Coalition Against Kajuru Killings’ (CAKK) stated on 18 March 2019 that 130 people have been killed in a series of revenge attacks since the massacre announced by governor El-Rufai. In January 2018 about 10 persons were killed in an attack and reprisal involving herdsmen and local farmers in Numan local council of Adamawa State. In May 2018 over 400 herdsmen attacked four villages of Lamurde, Bang, Bolk, Zumoso and Gon in Numan and Lamurde local councils of Adamawa State killing 15 people. 21 people were killed by herdsmen in a village in Demsa local government area of Adamawa State. 32 Christians were murdered by Muslim Fulani herdsmen. Between 2017 and May 2, 2020, Fulani herdsmen conducted 654 attacks, killed 2,539 and kidnapped 253 people in Nigeria, a report obtained by ‘ThisDay’ has shown. So far, in 2020 as of May 2, according to the report, there were 141 attacks, 335 people killed and 137 kidnapped.

Kidnapping for Ransom
Quartz Africa reports that "kidnapping for ransom has become one of Nigeria’s biggest security problems. Kidnapping can be targeted at individuals or at groups. School children have been kidnapped in groups in various parts of Nigeria and usually, the prime targets of kidnapping for ransom are those considered to be wealthy enough to pay a fee in exchange for being freed. In the past, kidnapping victims tended to be the wealthy and the prominent, and so kidnappers had every interest in keeping their victims alive to extract the maximum ransom possible.

Campbell (2020) says Nigeria now has one of the world’s highest rates of kidnap-for-ransom cases. Other countries high up on the list included Venezuela, Mexico, Yemen, Syria, the Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan
and Somalia. Thousands of Nigerians have been kidnapped for ransom and other purposes over the years. Kidnapping has prevailed in spite of measures put in place by the government. The Nigerian police’s anti-kidnapping squad, introduced in the 2000s, has endeavored to stem the menace but this been to no avail, mainly due to a lack of manpower, poor logistics amongst a bunch of other factors.

However, a new report from SB Morgen, using data gathered from a variety of open sources, including the Council’s Nigeria Security Tracker, shows that, over time, the pool of potential victims has greatly expanded. Now, victims are often poor villagers, sometimes kidnapped indiscriminately, a departure from the targeted kidnapping of wealthy people. They struggle to pay ransoms quickly because of their relative poverty, and victims are much more likely to be killed. The report also presents a valuable attempt to quantify the costs of kidnapping and to map its spread. Between 2011 and 2020, it concludes that over $18 million had been paid in ransom.

According to Okoli (2019), the kidnapping business in Nigeria has been mostly perpetrated by criminal gangs and violent groups pursuing political agendas. Bandits have often taken to kidnapping for ransom to make money. The escapades of the famous kidnap kingpin, Evans, speak volumes of this pattern of kidnapping. Evans was a multimillionaire kidnapper who was arrested in Lagos a few years ago. He is currently in detention awaiting trial. Organized violent groups such as militants and insurgents have also been involved in kidnap for ransom in Nigeria. Current trends have been linked back to the example set by Niger Delta militants who resorted to solo and group abductions as a means of generating funds both for private use and for the cause of a particular group.

Similarly, Boko Haram insurgents have used the proceeds of kidnapping to keep their insurgency afloat. The insurgents engage in single or group kidnapping as a means of generating money to fund their activities. Huge sums are often paid as ransom by the victims’ families and associates to secure their release. In addition to militants and insurgents, organized local and transnational criminal syndicates have been involved. This is happening to apocalyptic proportions in North West Nigeria where rural bandits engage regularly in kidnapping in the states of Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi and Sokoto (Okoli, 2019).

Popular cases of kidnapping for ransom reported by Jones (2016) over the years include; the kidnap of The Lagos monarch, the Oba Oniba of Ibaland known as Oba Yushau Oseni who was abducted on July 16 2016. The abductors shot his wife and killed his guard. The abductors whisked him out of the palace at about 11.30pm, and took him away through the waterways. They later demanded a ransom of N500m for his release. He was released after three weeks, wearing just shorts and a T-shirt after his abductors had collected about N15 million.

Professor James Adichie, the father of the popular Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, was kidnapped on May 2, 2015 on his way from Nsukka, Enugu state to Anambra state. He was released three days later after an undisclosed amount was paid. The kidnappers initially asked for N50million. In an interview with BBC News Hours, Chimamanda said: “We are still reeling from it. We still have nightmares. I felt deeply hurt and shocked. I also felt very angry. “I never imagined it would happen to us and to an 80-year-old father like my father who spent his whole life teaching for Nigeria; I felt Nigeria had failed us.”

In March 2020, Quartz Africa reports that two Nigerian footballers were kidnapped and released soon after, though it is not clear if a ransom was paid. Further, hours before a world cup match in 2018, the captain of Nigeria’s national football team, Mikel Obi learned that his father had been kidnapped. The kidnapping of over two hundred girls from their school in April 2014 drew international attention to the ongoing threat from Boko Haram and the government’s inability to contain it. Following negotiations between Boko Haram and the Nigerian government, brokered by the International Committee for the Red Cross, 103 girls have since been released. Also the recent kidnap of over 300 hundred school boys in Government Science Secondary School, Kankara is another prime example of kidnapping for ransom.
Fortunately, More than 300 schoolboys kidnapped in northern Nigeria have been rescued, the Katsina state governor has said. The 344 boys, whose abduction was claimed by the Islamist militant group Boko Haram, were on their way back to Katsina, Aminu Masari told the state broadcaster on Thursday. But it was not immediately confirmed if the group included all the boys who were taken in the raid last Friday in the school in Kankara. More than 800 students were at the Government Science secondary school when it was attacked last week by armed men, but hundreds escaped, the Guardian reports.

The Strengths of Modern Security Network
Strengths of Nigerian Modern Security Networks include:

✔ Establishment of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is the highest criminal investigation arm of the Nigeria Police NPF to investigate and prosecute serious and complex criminal cases within and outside the Country

✔ Establishment of the Police Mobile Force commonly called MOPOL as a strike or Anti-riot unit to counter incidents of civil disturbance. It was designated to take over operations of major crisis where conventional police units cannot cope.

✔ Salary increment of 2010, the federal government under the leadership of Goodluck Jonathan extended the salary and allowance package to the military, para-military, police and intelligence community, who were not always covered by similar salary reviews in the past.

✔ Provision of protection by the Nigerian Army for Northern States during Book Haram Insurgency.

✔ Nigeria customs service is now playing a pivotal role in contributing to the revenue of Nigeria, this, it has continuously demonstrated since the year 2017 when its revenue contribution to the country continue to rise above one trillion Naira annually, reducing rates of bribery and corruption and smuggling. (This Day, 2019)

✔ Nigeria Immigrations service has seen to the control of persons entering or leaving Nigeria, the issuance of travel documents, including Nigerian passports, to bonafide Nigerians within and outside Nigeria, the issuance of residence permits to foreigners in Nigeria, border surveillance and patrol, and enforcement of laws and regulations.

✔ The NDLEA has seen to confiscation of marijuana across the country. Between 2006 and June 2008 over 12,663 suspected drug dealers were arrested, with seizure of over 418.8 metric tons of various hard drugs. In 2008 Nigeria was certified by the United States of America in the anti-narcotic crusade, for the eight successive times. President George Bush said that Nigeria had made significant progress in counter narcotics and had effectively co-operated with the United States on drug-related and money laundering cases. (News watch, 2008)

The Weaknesses of Modern Security Network
Despite the occasional wins, the weaknesses and inadequacies of the Nigerian modern security networks are still on a high. And in this case the weaknesses largely and highly outweigh whatever strengths they might possess, as these weaknesses have a way of impeding the growth of their strengths.

➢ Bribery and Corruption
Countless ordinary Nigerians attempting to make precarious ends meet as taxi drivers, market traders, and shopkeepers are accosted on a daily basis by armed police officers who demand bribes and commit human rights abuses against them as a means of extorting money. Those who fail to pay are frequently threatened with arrest and physical harm. Far too often these threats are carried out.

➢ Inability to provide adequate protection of lives and properties
This has been seen during the Boko Haram Insurgency, Northern killings, Fulani herdsmen havoc, religious and gang fights and more.

➢ Low morale, motivation and inadequate remuneration
Motivation is not a word that can be associated with the Nigerian Police Force. In fact, the lack of it defines them. In addition to being grossly undertrained and ridiculously underpaid, the Nigerian police are also insufficiently equipped, a combination of which has bred frustration, aggression, inefficiency and
brutality within the force. The average Nigerian policeman discharges his duties based on his mood, which is often bad. And to make a bad situation worse, the Nigerian Police Force as an institution lacks psychological support and a functional counseling unit. The institution is dilapidated. An angry hungry Nigerian police man with a gun is a recipe for disaster. Nigeria deserves a police force that is motivated, proactive, and intelligent. 

A Nigerian police recruit earns a monthly salary of N9, 000 ($24), while the Inspector General of Police earns a monthly salary of N711, 000 ($1,800). A senator in the same country takes home more than N29 million ($76,000) in a month. But while poor motivation should never be an excuse for brutality, it’s unrealistic and even unfair to expect a poorly remunerated and undertrained Nigerian policeman to discharge his obligatory duties with maximum professionalism. (Uzoezie, 2020).

- **Inadequate infrastructure and equipment**
  In addition to being poorly remunerated, officers of the Nigerian Police Force also live under the most deplorable and de-humanizing conditions. Like animals, officers of the Nigerian Police Force live in dirty and dilapidated barracks while their masters live in affluence. In Nigeria, budgets are often padded and deliberately blown up, yet, allocated funds almost never trickle down to the intended beneficiaries. In the 2020 appropriation bill, a total of N403bn ($1.1bn) was budgeted for the Nigeria Police Force including N2.9bn ($7.6m) for the purchase of security equipment, and N53.6m ($141,000) for rehabilitation of police stations and barracks. It’s mind-boggling that, with all the funds budgeted for the Nigerian Police Force over the years; officers find themselves in the same deplorable situation. (Uzoezie, 2020)

- **Lack of trust**
  In order for a law enforcement agent to be able to efficiently carry out their duties, they have to be trusted, by the people else cooperation and partnership with citizens will be hard. Though the motto of the Nigerian Police Force reads "Police is your friend" everyone knows otherwise. Lack of trust has impeded and will continue to impede the work of the Force to ensure security of lives and properties.

- **Illiteracy and Incompetence**
  What do you expect when you give a loaded gun to an unlearned, untrained man? Lack of psychological and emotional assessment, inadequate human capital and capacity development of law enforcement agents are reasons for the rotting systems of operation among these agencies. Investments have to be made to see to the psychological wellbeing and competencies of these agents to ensure optima functioning.

**TRADITIONAL SECURITY NETWORK AMONG THE YORUBA OF NIGERIA**

Ajayi and Crowder (1977) opine that war was not a profession in Yorubaland until the 19th century. Recruitment into the army was either through age grade associations or residential quarters in Yorubaland. The old Oyo developed a class of professional warriors known as the Eso who were seventy in number. The Eso were divided into senior and junior ranks. At the head of the army was the Aare Ona-Kakanfo. The title was usually conferred on the bravest soldier. Weapons were locally made and each soldier provided both his own weapons and logistic support. This 19th century Yoruba wars provided a fertile ground for shifting alliances with one another. The Egba allied with the Ijaye against Ibadan. The Ekiti confederacy formed a grand alliance against Ibadan to liberate themselves from Ibadan’s imperialism. In other cases, there were cultural organs of security such as the cult of warriors, the youth and age grade formations, joint community action, the cult of masquerades etc. According to Aremu (1995), the Egungun cult was very important in the life of the Yoruba people. The coming of the Egungun masquerade is capable of removing evil that lingers around the various communities. Mbiti (1969) reinforces this idea by insisting that there is mystical power which causes people to walk on fire, lie on thorns or nails, send curses or harm, to spit on snakes and cause them to die. Also, covenants were another means of guaranteeing security. According to Abogunrin (1996), a covenant is a solemn agreement made binding by rituals or oaths. Covenant is known as 'imule'. Covenants are major means of maintaining cohesion, peace and political stability within the society. According to Olomola (1991), ‘alile’ is a common terminology for the traditional security system consisting of semiotic tags and charms used
for the protection of places or things by owner other vested interests. These charms are believed to posses certain magical powers capable of causing misfortune and disaster to intruders.

The Yoruba people employed certain spiritual extrapolation as means of attaining security. One major security strategy of the Yoruba was the idea of primitive security through the use of extra ordinary powers of divination to repel attacks. According to Mbiti (1909) there is power that enables experts see hidden information to detect thieves and other culprits. On the role of prophecy as a security device, Olaoba (1997) maintains that consultation with Ifa oracle is considered one of the significant means of reaching the unknown realm. Also, in their personal and social security, the appeal to supernatural forces was one of the key ways of achieving security. According to Olaoba (1997), the action of Yemowo, a deity against evildoers or wicked people is akin to that of the goddess of Aiyelala. The victims of the goddess were wicked people who usually concealed their acts of wickedness for human beings.

Introduction to Amotekun Security Outfits in Yorubaland

The establishment of Amotekun security outfit was subject to the decision by all the six state governors at the regional security summit held in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria on June 2019 through Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN). Amotekun was birthed on January 9, 2020 collectively by the six south west governors of Ekiti, Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, Osun and Lagos states as the first regional security outfits initiated by the South West geo-political zone in Nigeria. The motto of Amotekun security outfit is zero tolerance to crime. The aim of establishing this security outfits is to ensure an end to insecurity in the South Western region of Nigeria. The security outfit was formed basically to defend the region in view of the rising insecurity in the country accentuated by indiscriminate killing, kidnapping, banditry and destruction of farmlands.

The “Amotekun” means leopard in Yoruba language and is an operational, nomenclature for the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN). The leopard symbolizes strength, perseverance, ambition, independence, toughness, patience, wisdom and fearlessness (Oladele and Adeniran, 2020). Amotekun is also known for its unique hunting behaviour and a well-camouflaged for which enables it to defend its territories from intruders.

Membership and Modus Operandi of Amotekun Group

The members of Amotekun security outfits were drawn from local hunters, the Oodua people congress (OPC), Agbekoya, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), vigilante group, security experts and other Yoruba socio-cultural group engage in local security. They are to complement the activities of conventional policing such as Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) among other state security establishments. (Olawale, 2020). Amotekun security outfits is a regional affair, each state has its units. The local government organ will coordinate the activities in its jurisdiction. Each local government will relate to the state command. The six-state commands will relate to the regional command will operation from the control center in Ibadan, Oyo State and the operational base in Gbongan, Osun state and work closely with the Developmental Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission, which provide administrative supervision for the initiative. Odewale and Lamidi (2020) observe that Amotekun operatives carry Dane guns that are similar to the ones hunters carry during their operation. Operation Amotekun officials man 52 backstops across the south-west geo-political region.

Administration and Effectiveness of Amotekun

The headquarters of operation Amotekun will be located in Ibadan. The commissioner of Police in each state will oversee the activities in each of the state. There would be provision for a security trust fund that will foot the bill of this agency, which the Commissioner of Police will oversee. Each state is also expected to recruit the number of personnel they are capable of maintaining.

The operation of the outfit would reduce the problem of inadequate manpower in the Nigeria Police Force. They complement the Nigeria police force in undertaking more robust routine patrols in every nooks and cranny of the region. The initiative serves as intelligent for conventional security. They serve as the CCTV
in most of the rural areas by gathering information about the crimes and suspicious activities for interpretation and proper action. It would likely reduce the intention for criminality (Odewale and Lamidi, 2020)

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

‘Insecurity in Nigeria poses a threat to life and property, hampers business activity, and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which truncate and maron a country's social and economic growth and development. Rising insecurity has assumed a dangerous dimension that threatens the nation’s business sector. Removing such challenges should be Nigeria’s number one priority at all levels because the nation cannot achieve any significant development with insecurity and terrorism running rampant’

So far this study has focused on traditional security outfits as an alternative and panacea to the problem of security within the country, which is the indeed why that is the first solution this author will be proffering. This study has overlooked the concept of African traditional religion and why traditional religion security outfits may just prove to be the next messiah. These traditional security outfits will be more conversant with all the nook and crannies of the community as they are community indigenes and are personally involved and sworn to protect said communities. They will also relieve overworked regular security officials like the policy and just diversifies the attempt at establishing a safer and secure environment, hence covering more ground.

Community Policing should be established within each divisional police headquarters for effective management of insecurity. The government should boost people's living standards by establishing more centers of entrepreneurship across the nation, most notably in the North and North East. The government should create more job opportunities for the youth as this will make them abstain from committing all such crimes. Politicians who use thugs should be barred from politics for life. Governments should promote good governance, openness, accountability through the use of print and digital media, and inform the public through conferences, seminars, and NGOs. The Amotekun should guide against all the ills that were associated with the security system of the country that brought their failure and be the solution to the common man in the South-West Yorubaland.

**References**


